

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 21, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 11, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 28, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

## **ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 671**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Beall**

February 21, 2007

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An act to add Section 14132.04 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 671, as amended, Beall. Medi-Cal: frequent users of health services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health services. Eligibility determinations under the Medi-Cal program are made by county welfare departments.

This bill would, notwithstanding any other provision of law, expand Medi-Cal eligibility to include individuals who are frequent users of health services, as defined, provided the individual meets the medically

needy income eligibility requirements under the Medi-Cal program. The bill, no later than July 31, ~~2009~~, 2010, would require the department to submit any necessary application to the federal Centers—~~of~~ *for* Medicare and Medicaid Services for a waiver to implement its provisions, and would provide that its provisions would be implemented only if federal financial participation is available and all necessary federal approvals are obtained.

By increasing the duties of local agencies responsible for making eligibility determinations, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14132.04 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 14132.04. (a) For purposes of this section, the following
- 4 definitions shall apply:
- 5 (1) "At risk of homelessness" means a history of homelessness,
- 6 an absence of a permanent address over the last 12 months, or an
- 7 absence of any current reliable source of income.
- 8 (2) "Frequent users of health services" means individuals who
- 9 have undergone emergency department treatment on five or more
- 10 occasions in the past 12 months or on eight or more occasions in
- 11 the last 24 months and who have two or more of the following risk
- 12 factors:
- 13 (A) On one or more occasions within the last 24 months, the
- 14 individual was diagnosed with chronic or life-threatening
- 15 conditions that require management of symptoms, medications,
- 16 health care, or changes in lifestyle or risk-related behaviors, which
- 17 may include, but need not be limited to, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis,

1 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, emphysema, asthma, or  
2 cancer.

3 (B) On one or more occasions within the last 24 months, the  
4 individual was diagnosed with an Axis I or II mental disorder  
5 identified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental  
6 Disorders.

7 (C) On one or more occasions within the last 24 months, the  
8 individual was diagnosed with a substance use disorder, including  
9 substance dependence and substance use problems, that interfere  
10 with the individual's health or appropriate utilization of health  
11 services.

12 (D) The individual experiences consistent or intermittent  
13 nonadherence to prescribed treatment, resulting in significantly  
14 increased risk of avoidable hospitalization, emergency room visits,  
15 serious health consequences, or death.

16 (E) The individual is currently experiencing homelessness or  
17 is at risk of homelessness.

18 (3) "Homelessness" means lacking a fixed, regular, or adequate  
19 nighttime residence or a primary nighttime residence that is a  
20 supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to  
21 provide temporary living accommodations or a public or private  
22 place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping  
23 accommodation for human beings.

24 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual  
25 who is a frequent user of health services, as defined in *paragraph*  
26 *(2) of* subdivision (a), and who is otherwise uninsured and  
27 ineligible for benefits under the Medi-Cal program, shall be  
28 covered under the Medi-Cal program, provided that the individual  
29 meets the medically needy income eligibility requirements pursuant  
30 to this chapter.

31 (c) (1) No later than July 31, ~~2009~~ 2010, the department shall  
32 submit any necessary application to the federal Centers ~~of~~ for  
33 Medicare and Medicaid Services for a state plan amendment to  
34 implement this section.

35 (2) This section shall only be implemented if federal financial  
36 participation is available, and if the federal Centers for Medicare  
37 and Medicaid Services approves the state plan amendment sought  
38 pursuant to paragraph (1).

39 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
40 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to

- 1 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
- 2 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 3 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.